



THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 87, NO 9 | November 2017

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Christmas with Concordia Lutheran Ministries

Concordia Adopt a Resident for Christmas

Each December, many of the locations in the Concordia Lutheran Ministries family participate in a program called "Adopt-A-Resident." Skilled nursing and personal care residents provide the activities staff with a wish list. Then, employees, community members, churches, businesses and even independent living residents "adopt" a resident (or in some cases many residents) to make sure they have a gift to open for Christmas.

If interested in participating in the program, call the facility of your choice below to "adopt" a resident. For those who prefer to send a general gift, the activities staff can suggest some newly purchased items that residents typically use. Items should be wrapped and labeled with either the resident's name or, if it is a general gift, what the gift is, and can be dropped off at the appropriate facility.

Here are a few gift ideas:

- Sweat suits
- Door wreaths
- Stamps and stationary
- Digital clocks with large numbers
- Sugar-free candy
- Hair salon gift certificates
- Magnifying glass
- Slippers or slipper socks
- Throws or blankets
- Sports memorabilia

The participating locations are:

- Concordia at Cabot - Call Roberta Breninghouse at 724-352-1571, ext. 8241 (for skilled nursing residents) or Jaime White at ext. 8302 (for personal care residents). Deadline for gifts is Dec. 8.
- Concordia of Cranberry - Call Ashleigh Cuteri at 724-779-4300. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 11.
- Concordia of Fox Chapel - Call Kelly Ellena at 412-767-5808. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 16.
- Concordia of Franklin Park - Call Veronica Guerrini at 724-935-1075. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 1.
- Concordia at the Orchard - Call Jodi Macko or Kassie Walker at 724-285-4490. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 15.

- Concordia of the South Hills - Call Heather Voithofer at 412-294-1357. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 14.
- Concordia at Ridgewood Place (Plum Borough) - Call Cheryl Sopcak at 412-798-1855. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 10.
- Concordia of Wexford - Call Michelle Moan at 724-935-1266. Deadline for gifts is Dec. 1.

Make sure you contact the facility before the deadline! Monetary contributions are always appreciated and can be sent to Larissa Yates, Development Manager, Concordia Lutheran Ministries Foundation, 134 Marwood Road, Cabot, PA 16023.

Concordia to Host Live Nativity Scene in Cabot

Concordia Lutheran Ministries will host the fifth annual live nativity scene on Sunday, Dec. 10 in front of the Haven II building at 148 Marwood Rd. Performances are 15 minutes and will be scheduled at 4:30, 5:15 and 6:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The scene will feature people from throughout the Concordia family, both staff and residents, and live animals. Live Christmas music, hot beverages and refreshments will be provided indoors as well as a gift for children 12 and under. This will be a "walk-through" nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly.

As an organization rooted in Christianity, Concordia's vision statement is to serve the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people. Spreading the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ is one way to help care for the spiritual needs of the community.

Parking will be available at entrance 6 on Marwood Rd. For more information, call Connor Hagey at 724-352-1571, ext. 8343. To keep up to date with what's happening at Concordia, visit the Events page at www.concordialm.org.

Mark your Calendar

November

- 5 Redeemer Lutheran School Ladies Luncheon, Green Oaks Country Club, Verona
- 6 Nar-Anon, Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw, each Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Concordia Good Samaritan Purse Gala, PNC Park Lexus Club, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Annual Veterans Day Parade, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont
- 11 ABC Event Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 11 Visual Faith Workshop, Faith Lutheran, McMurray, 9:00 a.m. to noon
- 11 Veteran's Day Service, Minersville Cemetery, 2:30 p.m.
- 12 ABC Event, Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville, noon to 4:00 p.m.
- 12 Concordia Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting, Highpointe at Rebecca, Allison Park, 3:00 p.m.
- 18 RLS sings at Light Up Night, Oakmont
- 19 Unity Lutheran Mission Harvest Festival, Pittsburgh, 2:00 p.m.
- 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service, Bethel, Glenshaw, 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Service, Redeemer, Oakmont, 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

December

- 5 Holiday Bazaar, Concordia of South Hills, Mt Lebanon 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 10 Live Nativity, Concordia Haven II, Cabot, 4:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.

See individual articles for details.

PALM REPORT

The PALM board met on Tuesday, September 19. The following are issues discussed:

- Continue to follow-up on the Hazelwood Community Day Event
- Potential mission opportunities were discussed in Cranberry and Brentwood
- The board passed a resolution to increase grant funding to \$8,000 for the next cycle
- Ongoing board discussion will occur regarding the future focus of PALM

Veteran's Day at Minersville

The Second-Annual PALM Veterans Day Service at Minersville Cemetery will take place on Veterans Day, November 11, at 2:30 p.m. Pastor Brian Westgate, PALM President and Minersville Cemetery Committee chair, will preside. Minersville Cemetery is located in Pittsburgh's Hill District at Shawnee and Ossipee Streets, a block east of Herron and a block north of Centre Ave, next to the Millions School. You are cordially invited to attend. Several veterans are buried at Minersville, which was the cemetery of Second St. Paul's Evangelical-Lutheran Church. When that parish closed about 35 years ago, the Missouri Synod became the owner of the cemetery; PALM is Synod's "boots on the ground." See you there.

The Mission: 500 Years Later

by Pr. Bob McCanness, PALM Mission Director

How did Lutheranism EVER get out of Wittenberg, much less, all the way to PITTSBURGH? Within Luther's lifetime, folk from as far as Sweden to Slovakia heard of Luther's reforming efforts and read his writings. They were astounded by the simple message of the Good News of the Gospel that was at the heart of it all. If you saw the 2003 "Luther" movie, you saw where Luther had to go get his Ph.D. before he was ever exposed to the bulk of the Gospels and the New Testament! These crucial books of The Bible had been hidden away from most people for a thousand years by Luther's day. It was his goal to simply preach and teach the clear doctrines found therein, particularly justification by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, so that EVERYONE would come to know salvation in Jesus was not a 'pipe dream,' but that the entire Kingdom of God was as close to believers as His Word.

The Peasants War during Luther's life, and the Smalcald War that followed, did NOT deter Lutheran mission work in Europe, even though it can be hard to preach and teach the true faith amidst flashing sword and roaring cannon. The Good News was simply TOO good NOT to pass along, and those who heard and believed it were too grateful to NOT tell their neighbors! "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart," Hebrews 4: 12. And if the devil could not prevail against Christ Church, then neither would popes, councils, emperors or Turks! The mission was ON!

And when war proved unsuccessful, enlightenment and rationalism tried its best to snuff out the true faith in Germany. Four boatloads of outcast Saxons left for America in 1839, with three of them actually making it to our shores. Under the leadership of C.F.W. Walther, through hardship, theological struggle, and persecution, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod persevered; reaching upriver all the way to Pittsburgh by the 1850's.

And despite the Civil War, a couple of World Wars, the rise of industrialization, the fall of the American Steel industry, and a number of other triumphs and setbacks both great and small, in the intervening 160 plus years, the Good News continues to be preached in our midst, and the mission field ever remains before us, brimming with promise and possibility.

Pittsburgh is growing again, and many of those growing and changing communities lack a local congregation in which to worship. Faithful Lutherans travel over hill and dale to get to worship on Sunday, but many people either don't have a "local" congregation that's local enough or don't know the treasures of the Gospel that lie inside our every congregation's door. Wars and rumors of war ever persist, the cold, faith-crushing rationalism of modernism, post-modernism, and every other "-ism" continue to steal away many a soul, even from our own families. The Lutheran Church is not "done" or "completed" just BECAUSE we still

(Continued on page 3)

Devotion

by Rev'd Brian Westgate

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

– Psalm 103:1-2.

We have much for which to be thankful. We just celebrated 500 years of the Evangelical-Lutheran Reformation and given God most high and hearty thanks for the blessed gifts of the pure Gospel and Sacraments which He has given us, and His gift to His Church of the Blessed Reformer, Dr. Luther, who He led to rediscover these great things through His Holy Scriptures.

But we have much more for which we should be thankful. Luther points them out for us in his Explanation to the First Article of the Apostles' Creed: “my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them . . . clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have . . . richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life . . . defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil . . . only out of father's divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.” And if that's not enough, he gives this somewhat parallel list in his Explanation to the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: “food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”

So many reasons to thank and praise, serve and obey God. We could add your congregation, our Synod, PALM (and other mission & ministry groups like CLM and PLM) and our many local missions and schools and preschools. You know how to fill in the list of things for which you are thankful.

But most importantly we give God high and hearty thanks that He sent His Son Jesus to die for us and rise to life, to forgive our sins, rescue us from death and Satan's power, and bring us to everlasting life. May He preserve us in this faith unto life everlasting, and preserve to us His Word and Sacrament.

(Continued from page 2)

have some congregations left in the area. The mission is “ON,” so long as we have breath in our bodies and fields to harvest.

Jesus gave us the GREAT Commission, in proclaiming, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore, as you are going, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I AM with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28: 18b-20.

If you are reading this, then the mission is NOT done yet. That is our attitude at PALM, as we look for new mission fields around us, to help plant, grow, and nurture. And we look forward to that very calling, as Year #501 begins in November. After all, Jesus is STILL with us, so how can the mission possibly fail?!



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PALM Website

<http://www.palmpa.org>

Pastor Westgate Goes to Philly

by Pastor Brian Westgate

Pastor Brian Westgate, PALM President, visited Philadelphia during the first week of October to see firsthand the work of PALM's sister organization, Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (PLM). PLM is actively involved with many missions. Pastor Westgate specifically saw two of these missions.

Pastor Rob Kieselowsky, PLM Executive Director, took him to the site of the first ever LCMS mission plant in center-city Philly, Logos Lutheran Fellowship. Logos worships in the historic sanctuary of Old Zion Lutheran Church (dedicated as St. Matthew's Church) on Broad Street. Old Zion is a former member of the ELCA, but now belongs to a much smaller centrist Lutheran denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Conference & Ministerium. It is a beautiful and large building, and was the site of the first ever LCMS Easter service in center-city Philly. While we were there, Pastor Kieselowsky also provided some aid to a man we believed to be homeless. Pastor Westgate also then saw campus ministry in action, as some of our LCMS students at Philly's many universities came to the Kieselowsky house to pray Vespers and study Luther's Large Catechism with Pastor Kieselowsky and Vicar Joseph Schlie.

Philadelphia may seem far away, but we still should remember it in our prayers and offerings. Our city has had a much larger LCMS presence throughout its history than Philadelphia has, so PLM is working hard to fill that void, to bring the pure Gospel to a place that needs it very much. Many of our own find their way to Philly; in fact, I met a college student from Pittsburgh who teaches piano to the older Kieselowsky girls. Also, center-city Philly is growing by leaps and bounds. Many new homes are being built everywhere you look, and the Kieselowskys' now live in one of these homes.

You can learn more about Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries at their website, <http://www.phillyministries.org>. Please pray for their work and support it, if you are so moved, with your donations.

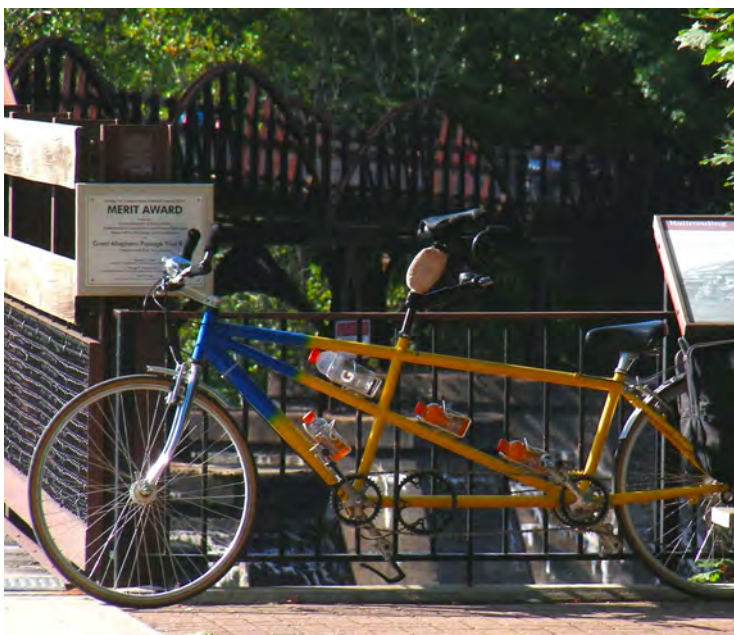


Mileposters News

On September 7, the group leader captained the triplet, with the Jonathon/Bella brother/sister stoker team, departing from Cedar Creek Park in Westmoreland County, along the Youghiogheny River. Penny, our blind stoker, with her captain Beth, left from Western Penitentiary, on the north bank of the Ohio River. The two groups met right outside of West Newton (photo) and traveled to the Yough Twister for ice cream together before returning to their respective starting points. Their combined mileage for the day was 88 miles. As part of the same campaign to raise support for recent hurricane victims, especially in Puerto Rico, the group leader rode, by himself, 112 miles in three trips, setting some speed records in the process: round trips Boston-Phantom Milepost (44), Connellsville-Ohiopyle, and Milepost 23-Cedar Creek. His tandem is pictured at Ohioptyle. Total for all four was 200 miles. Appeal letters will be mailed out.



Kick bikes will be featured in some of the 45-Minute Specials following Sunday worship at Trinity Lutheran, Monroeville, with chess and checkers in case of rain. Other 45-Minute Specials will include actual short movies (newsreels and cartoons), reels containing narrow strips of celluloid with hundreds of tiny pictures projected on a screen, giving the appearance of motion, rather than DVD or VHS conversions.



Times Change

by Augusta R Mennell, Campus Ministry Director

Twenty-five years ago, most international students had very little spending money. As a result, they needed our help. Whatever we did was a help. We helped them buy warm winter coats, and we provided snacks like packages of Ramen noodles, which we always kept visible in the church kitchen for students to take when they were hungry. They also needed the photographs we gave them to send to their families, because few had cameras then. As we helped in these ways the students became our friends. They accepted Bibles and our invitations to worship because they trusted campus ministry.

But times have changed. Campus Ministry must find innovative ways to connect with students. All students' have cameras now, and some own cars. While trying to adjust to the new circumstance, it occurred to us that we could offer help to those who need to learn to drive. We also realized that we could really help students by telling them where they can take their cars for repairs and car inspections. We have known Tim Stauffer for years. He is a Christian mechanic who does excellent car repair work. He is totally honest and really enjoys meeting and helping the students repair their cars. This has turned out to be a good outreach. As we drive the students to Grove City, where Tim has his shop, we get to talk about real things and we get to invite them to come into All Saints any time to talk, have lunch, take a drive to the grocery store, as well as to come for Bible study and worship.

Although times are changing, the need for friendship families has not changed. Slippery Rock University provides student mentors for new international students, and this is good, but some students still ask for friendship families. During the holidays some college students stay on campus instead of traveling. It is lonely, so the students' welcome friendly families like Jill and Ed Geidner, who gladly invite them home for Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner; and they are always willing to help students get to the Pittsburgh bus station.

Even though times are changing, there are no limits to ways to establish connections with students. Our LCMS pastors are very willing to arrange help. For example, a Pakistani Muslim student who attends SRU has a friend who attends at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. This international student has not adjusted well to being so far from home in Pakistan. She is miserable. She's tempted to go back home right now. She calls her SRU friend frequently asking for encouragement. When All Saints' pastor, Rev. Larry K. Loree, Jr., became aware of this he contacted Rev. King Crawford in Manhattan, Kansas, asking if he would find a friend for the student. Shortly, Rev. Crawford called with the name and email addresses of two young women who would love to help. Lutheran pastors are great at connecting students with loving Christians who can't wait to help.

At one time All Saints used to serve pizza and show a movie at an event we called Movie Night. This has changed dramatically. The students much prefer time to visit with each other in preference to watching a movie. They cannot wait to eat the real Korean dishes (not pizza) and frequently take leftovers back to their dorms. Instead of watching movies they like to ask questions. An American student wanted to know why infant baptism is so important. An international student from Sri Lanka wanted to know why a "pregnant la-

dy" was sitting next to Jesus in Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Last Supper". What an opportunity to tell the real story.

Since times are changing, All Saints' undercroft will be getting a makeover. It will be made more appealing for students to use as a place to relax, study, and drink their favorite coffees, as well as having the opportunity to share ideas with Rev. Larry K. Loree.

Students are freely offering their ideas on what furniture, coffees, and games should be available at the coffeehouse. We are looking for a name for the coffeehouse. One student from Iran said she'd like the undercroft coffeehouse to feel "cozy". Campus ministry is doing everything possible to change this area so that it will say "welcome" to all the students. Any ideas for a name? Send your suggestions to Augusta Mennell or Pastor Loree.

Change does not need to mean the end of everything good. Change means cars can drive themselves; Skype means being able to talk to, and see, family thousands of miles away; and change means adjusting our techniques to share the Gospel. God never changes, but we can change and improve the opportunities to take John 3:16 to the students.



Campus Ministry – Never a Dull Moment

By Pastor Eric R. Andrae

As I write this I am reflecting on last week, a typical week in campus ministry, which means it was totally unique: you see, no two weeks, no two days, no two months are ever the same for a campus pastor. Never a dull moment.

After **Sunday's** adult instruction class (including students from Pitt and CMU), divine service, and student lunch at First Trinity Church, I joined some members of Lutherans for Life for the Life Chain at the intersection of Forbes and Craig in the heart of Oakland. Lots of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

On **Monday** I was one of two chaplains present at Heinz Chapel on campus at Pitt, praying and providing pastoral care in light of the Las Vegas mass shooting.

Wednesday saw me at WORD-FM for my regular monthly appearance on the drive-time show at our local Christian radio station,



discussing baptism, the Reformation, and upcoming campus ministry and church events.

On **Thursday**, some six members of Westboro Baptist Church came to campus at both CMU and Pitt, protesting homosexuals and others in a manner that is extremely confrontational, while offering very little if any hope or talk of forgiveness, redemption, and new life; on the other side (literally and figurately), a large crowd of students and staff responded with a virtual LGBT "Pride" festival. Somewhere in the middle (literally and figuratively), there was I, offering prayer and biblical guidance. Later that night at First Trinity we had our weekly Lutheran Student Fellowship homestyle meal, Bible Study, and Compline; after discussions with five students (about admission to communion, adjusting to freshman year, reaching out to inactives, and more), I headed over to Pitt for a meeting with students of Choose Life, the pro-life Recognized Student Organization, as well as a staff representative from Students for Life of America.



On **Friday** morning I participated in the first session of a Luther course offered by the PGH Christian Studies Program (www.pghchristianstudies.org), on whose Advisory Council I serve. I enjoyed an impromptu conversation about the literature of Flannery O'Connor with one student and more formally discussed the concept of righteousness with another, both Roman Catholic. The seminar is leading up to an ecumenical roundtable on Pitt's campus in November; I will be one of the panelists discussing the legacy of the Reformation. Later Friday morning our ESL class and Bible Study were held at First Trinity, with students from China, Japan, Colombia, Congo, and Korea, the majority of whom are pre-Christian.



The week wrapped up with First Trinity Homeless Ministry's (a daughter mission of the campus ministry) quarterly distribution of toiletries, clothing, and other necessities on **Saturday**. I had the opportunity to meet, invite to church, and pray with about 10+ volunteer students from Pitt and CMU, as well as dozens of impoverished neighbors from Oakland, Shadyside, and beyond.

I love it!

ASCENSION LUTHERAN

McCandless

Ascension Lutheran Church (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237) is once again this year supporting Operation Christmas Child (OCC) through Samaritan's Purse. In addition to the shoe box gifts, Samaritan's Purse also spreads the Gospel to these children. If you are interested in packing a shoe box(es), we have both plastic shoe boxes and cardboard shoe boxes available. Shoe boxes are due back no later than Noon on November 19, 2017. For more information about packing a shoe box, you can visit the Operation Christmas Child website at www.samaritanspurse.org/occ. If you would like to participate, please contact Bob Marcellus at finance@ascensionpgh.com.

Ascension Lutheran Church's Pumpkin Fest / Flea Market (hosted by Ascension's Evangelism/Outreach Board) was held on October 7, 2017, and was a wonderful success with members of the community attending as well as Ascension's members. From the many (over 70) home-baked pies, hot dogs, homemade vegetable soup, pumpkins, and vendors, it was very much enjoyed by all.

BETHEL LUTHERAN

Glenshaw

Seventeen quilts were taken to First Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oakland to be distributed to the homeless in Pittsburgh. Rev. Litke gave a blessing over the quilts prior to distribution.



Bethel will be having a worship service the evening before Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. What a great opportunity to thank our Lord for all that he has provided for us.

Bethel has opened its doors to the community by allowing meetings to be held by Nar-Anon (Mondays 7:00 p.m.), Al-Anon (Saturdays 12:00 noon) and Girl Scouts (Wednesdays 6:00 p.m.).

The Board of Directors are seeking a contractor for upcoming improvements to the basement social hall. If you have someone that you have used and are pleased with their skills and price, please email the church at secretary@bethelglenshaw.org or leave message at 412-486-5777.

CALVARY LUTHERAN

Murrysville

ABC EVENT

(Art Show, Bake Sale, Craft Fair)

This event is November 11 & 12, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and 12 Noon to 4:00 pm Sunday at Calvary Lutheran, Old Wm Penn Highway and School Road, Murrysville.

The 42nd Annual Christian Art Show features original artwork by Pittsburgh area Christian artists. Entries are still being accepted.

Entry forms are available on Calvary's website at www.calvarylcms.org, by e-mail to suznbobk@aol.com, or by calling (724) 327-4230.

Bake Sale and Craft Fair features home-baked goods and hand-crafts made by Calvary members. Proceeds benefit a Calvary family with extensive medical expenses.

Everyone is invited to come, enjoy some inspiring art work, have some lunch at the Gallery Café, and take home some delicious baked goods and beautiful hand-crafts.

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Brentwood

Concordia youth and chaperones, enjoyed an evening Hayride at Simmons Farm, on Saturday October 14, with Peace Lutheran - McMurray's youth & chaperones! We had our own pavilion for the event, and shared a great evening of fellowship around the bonfire, even as our youth explored the corn mazes and other activities that night.

As part of our 500th Anniversary celebration of the Reformation this year, we screened the 2003 "Luther" movie, on Friday, October 27. It Starred Joseph Fiennes, Bruno Ganz, Peter Ustinov and Claire Cox, it tells the story of Martin Luther, from his conversion experience in the Erfurt Forest in July of 1505, to the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession in June of 1530.

A brief Bible study based on the film followed, and refreshments were available.

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN

West View

Fall is always busy at Mt. Calvary in West View, with various activities starting up again after summer, and preparations taking place for the upcoming holiday season.

Mt. Calvary provides cookies to the local Meals on Wheels during October, so donations for that – both edible and monetary – were brought in throughout the month. The church also enjoyed its annual Oktoberfest celebration following the church service on the 29th – more to report on that in the next issue. Bell and voice choir practice has begun on Monday evenings, with a schedule of Sunday performances in place.

And the ladies continue their card and gift-making each Tuesday at the church as part of the outreach program. In September, Mt. Calvary sent \$250 from the money earned by the cards to Texas to assist with the recovery efforts from Hurricane Harvey.

PEACE LUTHERAN

McMurray

Visual Faith Workshop

You are invited to attend a Visual Faith Workshop on Saturday, November 11, 2017, at Peace Lutheran Church, 107 Carol Drive, McMurray, PA, from 9:00 AM to Noon.

During this time, you will "Linger Longer in His Word". This is a make 'n take' opportunity which will allow you to create a special, visual, and personal reminder of God's presence in your life. All supplies will be available for you. Please register by calling 724-941-9441.

A free will offering will be accepted. Check out and "Like" the Visual Faith Community-Southwest Pennsylvania Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/230849830736036/> and please visit the Visual Faith Ministries website at <https://www.visualfaithmin.org/>.

VISUAL FAITH
Workshop 2

Linger Longer In His Word
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:5

Saturday, November 11, 2017
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Peace Lutheran Church, 107 Carol Drive, McMurray, PA 15317

Register by calling 724-941-9441 ~ Deadline: Nov. 5th

Free Will Offering

Linger means to stay, live, dwell, or abide.
Our lives are to be spent in the presence of God.
We are to stay and remain with Him all the days of our lives.
When you linger in the presence of God,
you naturally want to tell others about Him,
you personally know God and His power, and are blessed beyond measure.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

Morrisdale

Reformation Celebration

St John's Lutheran Church in Morrisdale and Martin Luther Lutheran Church in Punxsutawney celebrated the 500th Anniversary of Reformation. The 2 congregations came together to watch "Martin Luther" at DuBois Cinema 5 on August 29. Pastor Zitsch and Pastor Kusko were available after the movie for questions and comments. The informational evening was well attended and enjoyed by church and community members.

UNITY LUTHERAN

Pittsburgh

Unity Harvest Festival

You are cordially invited to the Unity Lutheran Mission Harvest Festival on Sunday, November 19, 2:00 p.m. at Unity Lutheran Church, 7825 Hamilton Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15208.

Pastor Dan Hahn, from St. John's in Millvale, will be the guest preacher. Please join us for a wonderful time of Worship, Fellowship, & Feasting.



ZION LUTHERAN

Bridgeville

Sixth Annual "Adopt a Grandparent" - By partnering with Ginny Granke-Kimberland, you can contribute \$15 which will provide two residents at a nursing home a fragrance-free hand cream. This is an item that is requested by caregivers. If you would like to donate towards this cause please contact Ginny Granke-Kimberland (412-427-9013).

The 11th Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bridgeville-South Fayette offered up 23 diverse and yummy chili samples on a mild and breezy Saturday, October 7. Zion's own chili team of Brian and Megan Pasquini, Doug Krantz and Levi Baer defended their title with Zion's multiple-award-winning Dakota recipe. Rotarian Dale Miller provided two complimentary tickets to the fun event for raffle winner Sean Carthy during Zion's recent 2nd Annual Ministry Fair. Compliments to all who participated in this wonderful, charitable autumn tradition.

Zion Expands Music Program

The Zion music ministry has expanded with the addition of a bell choir directed by Mark Killinger. The choir is divided into two groups: Faith, whose first performance was September 10th, and played "Holy, Holy, Holy" and Grace, whose debut was September 17th, and played "Jesus Shall Reign". They will join with the other musical disciplines at Zion to make joyful and beautiful music during services and holidays.



Ad Redacted

Kid's Corner

Do you know a child who loves to create? We are currently accepting submissions of children's drawings, paintings, art, and poetry for future issues of The Pittsburgh Lutheran.

Send submissions to:
Pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com

REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Penn Hills / Oakmont

According to the calendar, autumn has arrived in the Pittsburgh area, but the thermostat certainly doesn't show it! The warm days keep coming, along with all the busy times here at Redeemer!

On Friday, September 29th, our entire school family participated in one "grand affair" together. Our preschool to 2nd graders wore their PJ's and brought their stuffed animals for a wonderful Family Reading Night. Our upper elementary and middle school students presented their literature projects, and our high school underclassmen displayed their own creations of memorials and monuments to commemorate important moments in history. All students and families were invited to shop in the Scholastic Book Fair. Ice cream and other delicious treats were available for sale to benefit the high school 2018 missions team. We appreciate all the hard work by faculty, staff, and student presenters to produce a fun evening for the Redeemer school family!



RLS teachers having a great time in their PJ's at Family Reading Night.

Wednesday, October 4th, was a busy day at Redeemer. Preschoolers took part in an in-house "field trip," participating in fun center activities planned by the Children's Museum and Redeemer teachers. K through 12th grade students watched a presentation of Robin Hood presented by the Windy City Players. High school students and faculty worked together on important service projects and improvements around the campus.



High schoolers and faculty spreading mulch at the playground.

Redeemer teachers traveled to Frankenmuth, Michigan, for their annual faculty retreat. Preschool and elementary teachers visited St. Lorenz Lutheran School, while the high school faculty toured Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw. The trip culminated in a stop at the ever-popular Bronner's Christmas Wonderland for some browsing and shopping.

RLS was well represented at the Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Schools 5K on Saturday, October 7th at Saxony Farms. Eighth grader Nathan Jackson took 1st place in the event, with ninth grader and cross-country runner Charis Carroll taking 3rd place. Several other students and faculty members also took part in the event. Thanks to PALS for organizing the event, and for financially supporting Lutheran education in the Pittsburgh area!

As of this writing, the Redeemer Robotic Rams team is



RLS students at the PALS 5k RLS students at the PALS 5k.

working diligently to prepare for the Best of the Best competition on October 13th and 14th at Grove City College. We pray for a positive learning experience and participation that honors Christ.

Perhaps the most significant note of September for RLS: we were able to send more than \$2000 to Lutheran South Academy in Texas to aid in their hurricane relief efforts! All money was collected from chapel offerings and family donations. We humbly thank the Lord for allowing us to be a blessing to another part of the body of Christ in this way. Please continue to pray for LSA and all who have been affected by recent natural disasters, that God would be glorified in all things.

Looking ahead:

October 28: Reformation Family Event, RLS Penn Hills Campus

November 5: Redeemer Ladies Luncheon, Green Oaks Country Club, Verona

November 10: Annual Veterans Day parade and ceremony, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Oakmont

November 18: Light Up Night, Oakmont

ZION LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Bridgeville

In the Spotlight – Kids Praise is one of my favorite things that I get to do at the school. It's a time when all the classes get together for music and movement, singing and praising.

We are blessed to have two of our members also involved with Kids Praise: Mr. Doug (aka Doug Krantz) and Mrs. Carrie (aka Carrie Lemonovich) who play the piano for us. We sing silly, fun songs with lots of actions. Most importantly, we learn to sing the beautiful Bible songs we all learned as children. For some of these children, it's their first-time hearing "Jesus Loves Me", and "This Little Gospel Light of Mine". What an awesome way to share God's love to children, and then to share it with their family and friends through the songs they've learned.

The Annual Concordia of the South Hills

Holiday Bazaar

Tuesday, December 5

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Retirement Living Common Area

Shop for everyone on your list!
Get something special for yourself!

Satisfy your sweet tooth with the employee bake sale!

Auction Baskets, Jewelry, Fashion Accessories,
Ornaments, Art Work and Holiday Decorations

Proceeds benefit the Concordia of the South Hills Caring Fund.

For more information call 412-294-1306.
1300 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Complementary valet parking available



Concordia Purchases Property in Penn Twp.

In an effort to expand its mission once again of serving others, Concordia Lutheran Ministries has purchased a 134 acre parcel of property in Penn Twp. The parcel contains the building known as The Mansion. Specific plans for the property have not been finalized, but Concordia intends to incorporate The Mansion in its future plans to serve people.

Concordia purchased the property from the Raymond Lassinger Family Trust and their company, Associated Ceramics and Technology, Inc. The family made a generous charitable donation as part of the transaction to help further the care Concordia provides. "Our gift is an expression of gratitude for the excellent comfort and care given to my wife, my father and my mother during their stays at Concordia," said Raymond Lassinger.

"Concordia's beginnings in the 1880s came after a generous gift of land by a family that believed in our mission, and we are so thankful to the Lassinger family and Associated Ceramics and Technology Inc. for continuing that tradition," said Concordia Lutheran Ministries President and CEO Keith E. Frndak. "We look forward to exploring opportunities at this property to grow our mission."

The location and frontage on the Route 8 corridor was a chief component in the organization's decision to purchase the property. In February, Concordia acquired the former Middlesex Elementary School, approximately 4 miles away, for administrative offices for its home health and hospice organizations – in addition to donating some of the space to a local nonprofit.

"We are always looking for ways to improve our efficiencies and invest for the future of our mission," Frndak said. "This rare opportunity satisfied both of those ideas, and we just couldn't pass it up."

Concordia Oktoberfest 2017

More than 1600 gathered on the Cabot campus Saturday, October 7 for fun, food, festivities, and fireworks. More than 400 kids enjoyed free activities like a bouncy house, pumpkin decorating, face painting, pony rides, hay rides. The Mikey Dee Polka Band entertained. Ascension, Faith, Butler and John Huss sold out of baked goods. The Haven resident rummage sale was the biggest ever. And finally, Zambelli fireworks display were the best ever!



Concordia's Good Samaritan Memorial Walk

A beautiful, autumn day at Saxony Farm in Saxonburg topped off the Second Annual Good Samaritan Hospice Walk. Those in attendance walked a little more than a mile around the quiet farm in memory of their lost loved ones.

The walk also featured a dove release, games and activities for kids, employee recognition and door prizes for everyone. All proceeds benefited Good Samaritan Hospice's mission of hospice care to those we love facing a life-limiting illness. Proceeds made from the event make a difference to the hospice patients and families we are fortunate to serve.



Annual Purse Gala to Support Kids' Bereavement Camp

The Fourth Annual Purse Gala to benefit Camp Erin Pittsburgh (a ministry of Concordia's Good Samaritan Hospice) is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8 at PNC Park's Lexus Club.

Presenting Sponsor is New York Life and Heather Abraham from KDKA will be our mistress of ceremonies. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person for a buffet dinner. Twenty designer bags as well as a silent auction will be featured. Parking for the event will be in Red Lot 6, compliments of ALCO Parking.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Frank Amato, Gala Chairman at 724-845-7338 or go online at www.PurseGala.com.

Camp Erin Pittsburgh hosts more than 100 children ages 6 – 17 who are grieving the death of someone close to them for one weekend each June. For more information about Camp Erin, call Good Samaritan Hospice at 800-720-2557. Good Samaritan Hospice is a mission of Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Heritage Valley, and Butler Health Systems.

Grand Opening: Highpointe at Rebecca

Thanks to the grace of God, Concordia Lutheran Ministries celebrated another milestone on September 23, 2017: The Grand Opening of Highpointe at Rebecca! Approximately 300 people attended the event, including community members, our founding residents and their families, representatives from the many construction companies/subcontractors who worked on the building, Concordia management and Board Members, local member church pastors, politicians and more. The event included delicious food and drink, tours of the building/model apartments, a presentation and ribbon cutting ceremony, and the music of River City Brass.

Concordia Board Chairman Steve Johnson also addressed the crowd, quoting Psalm 118:24 and recognizing the foresight of past Board Members to have a vision for a retirement community in this area - and the patience required to work on it for a decade. Concordia's Director of Chaplaincy Jack Hartman conducted a blessing on the building and those who will live there, and Concordia Chief Operating Officer Brian Hortert closed the ceremony with a champagne toast and the ceremonial ribbon cutting, featuring all of the founding residents in attendance.

Perhaps the most appropriate visual of the day came in the form of a cross being created by a jet stream in the sky above the building.



Ad Redacted.